

MORE ON THE STATE OF TEXAS PERFIN ————— by Floyd Walker

The saga of the "C in Star" pattern of the State of Texas continues....

When I last reported on this subject (November/December 1977 Bulletin), I told members that correspondence from Tom Treadway, financial division director for the Texas state legislature in Austin, Texas, indicated that the old "C in Star" pattern (C-10) was being revived for use on state postage.

Now we have a new element to the story.

Shortly after my article appeared, I received a letter from a Texas member of the Perfins Club reporting that he had acquired a full mint sheet of 13¢ definitives perforated with the C-10 pattern. He said he had paid face value for the stamps at a local stamp club meeting.

The seller reportedly had acquired the stamps in Austin and had traded a full sheet of regular (unPerfined) stamps for them.

I wrote our Texas member that I planned to inform Treadway that a full sheet of Texas Perfins had wandered. Since Perfins are designed to protect postage from "unauthorized use," the fact that somebody had traded a sheet of Perfinned stamps for a sheet of unPerfined ones struck me as being perhaps just a little on the questionable side.

At the same time, the trade may have been perfectly innocent--perhaps designed to help out a stamp collector.

However, considering the fact that the whole subject of reviving the Texas Perfin came up because some Texas legislators had stolen enough state-owned postage to buy, among other things, a pick-up truck, I thought Treadway should know about the stamps.

I wrote Treadway late in December. I did not reveal the name of the Perfins Club member involved, but I did trace the story much as I have traced it here.

In mid-January, I received a telephone call from a Captain Hugh Poage of the Criminal Investigation Division of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Captain Poage explained that he had been asked to look into the matter of the Perfins and that although there was not at that time any indication of wrongdoing, he did want to trace the stamps to their original source.

After chatting for a few moments to confirm the identity of the caller (I'm from Texas and still have many friends there, including some Poages, none related to the Captain), I told Poage the name of our member in Texas.

I've learned since that the Texas member was contacted within the hour and, after assuring himself that Poage was who he said he was, revealed the name of his source.

That source in turn was contacted and apparently named his source. Beyond that I have no information at the moment.

I've asked both Treadway and Poage to in-

form me if any action is taken regarding the Perfins. I'm very curious to learn if the original trade was innocent or was an attempt to rip off the state.

If it was the latter, it obviously did not succeed.

Perhaps we will find out that Perfins can still do what Joseph Sloper designed them to do--stop the unauthorized use of postage stamps.

Incidentally, Captain Poage assured both our Texas member and myself that it is perfectly all right to use the stamps with the C-10 pattern on personal mail. The crime, if there was one, obviously lies in the original diversion of the stamps in Austin, not in the use of them on mail.

So, there will be some C-10s floating around soon on current mail. I'm sure our Texas member will make good use of the stamps.

And I'll keep members informed if I hear anything further about the saga of the Texas Perfins.